a formulation for reduction of tariffs, based on each WTO member's present bound tariff average.

On one of the most important outstanding implementation issue relating to the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD and TRIPS, India has been instrumental in forming a group of developing countries (Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, Zambia, Bolivia) for demanding that patent applicants should disclose the country and source of origin of any biological material or associated traditional knowledge used in their inventions, and the patent system should be supportive of the informed consent and benefit sharing arrangements that national laws may prescribe. Protection of intellectual property rights of private individuals should be supportive of the larger societal interests enshrined in the CBD.

India has also been working closely with broad developing country goupings, such as the Africa Group, the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to promote our common interests in the WTO.

Problems faced by fireworks industry

1527. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the problem facing fireworks industrialists due to complexities in the present rules for exporting fireworks production to other countries; and

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not received any representation relating to the rules regulating the export of fireworks. Under the simplified Explosives Rules, 1983, a licence, in form 28 is obligatory for export of fireworks. The applicant is required to submit and application in form 11 alongwith fee of Rs. 150/- to the Chief Controller of Explosives. For export by sea, the licensee is also required to comply with the*requirements of International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code/Rules administered by Director General of Shipping. For export by

and, Central Government's clearance under Rule 30 of Explosive Rule, 1983 is also required. For export by air, clearance is also required from Director General of Civil Aviation and in case of export of firework item which is not included in Schedule VI of Explosives Rules, exemption of Rule 31(2) is required from Central Government under Section 14(2) of Explosives Act, 1884.

Increase in exports from SEZs

1528. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports from SEZ have gone up to $ 4.07 billion in 2004-05 from $ 2.7 billion in 2003-04;

(b) the number of SEZs functioning in 2003-04,2004-05 and at present and factors conducive for more exports by SEZs;

(c) whether Government proposes to open up more SEZs; and

(d) if so, the details of new SEZs proposed to be opened in 2005-06 and 2006-07 and target of exports fixed for these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Exports from Special Economic Zones (SEZs) rose from US $ 2.97 billion in 2003-04 to US $ 4.07 billion during 2004-05.

(b) Number of SEZs functioning during 2003-04,2004-05 and at present is indicated below:

Year	Number of functional SEZs
2003-04	8
2004-05	11
2005-06 (As on December, 2005)	15

Enactment of Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 with enhanced incentives would provide further impetus for promotion of exports.